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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-sixth session
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Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(*Item 3 (c)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1. At its 4th meeting, on 1 June 2016, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (E/AC.51/2016/4).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of UNODC, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the comprehensive nature of the report, welcomed its recommendations as a useful tool to improve the effectiveness of UNODC and agreed with the assessment that all but one of the five recommendations had been implemented.

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4. Clarification was sought by a delegation regarding a statement made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, highlighting that it was still too early to gauge the full effects of the implementation of the four recommendations, but that there were early indications of positive outcomes. Satisfaction was expressed that OIOS was taking into account that it was problematic to assess the impact of recommendations only recently implemented.

5. With regard to recommendation 1, by which UNODC had been required to fully integrate its functional areas and align its thematic and geographic programmes, a delegation expressed agreement that progress had been made and looked forward to learning more about the issue.

6. A view was expressed on the non-implementation of recommendation 2, with UNODC encouraged to implement the recommendation to operationalize an integrated knowledge management strategy. The UNODC Independent Evaluation Unit was applauded for deploying an online database for tracking the implementation of evaluation recommendations. It was stressed that those efforts, in addition to initiatives on results-based management, programme planning and results reporting, should be undertaken within existing budgetary and organizational resources.

7. In relation to recommendation 3, by which UNODC had been requested to improve its functions for guidance and support to programme planning, monitoring and results reporting, the view was expressed that improvements could be made within existing frameworks and should not be undertaken at the expense of field resources.

8. Regarding recommendation 4, on the fundraising strategy of UNODC with focus on reducing the earmarking of extrabudgetary contributions, the efforts of UNODC in developing its fundraising strategy by improving advocacy and awareness-raising were recognized. The importance of general-purpose funds in that context was noted, while at the same time the imperative of keeping project and administrative costs as low as possible was highlighted.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee expressed its appreciation to OIOS for the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-third session on the programme evaluation of UNODC.

10. The Committee agreed with the conclusion of OIOS that UNODC had implemented four of the five recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-third session.

11. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should encourage UNODC to continue to focus on translating its corporate vision through fully integrating its functional areas and aligning its thematic and geographic programmes, to continue to reinforce the importance of results-based management by improving its functions for guidance and support to programme planning, monitoring and results reporting, to continue to implement its fundraising strategy with special focus on reducing the earmarking of extrabudgetary contributions, and to make effective use of the mechanism that it had developed to ensure formal, systematic tracking of organizational actions that it took in response to evaluation recommendations.

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should encourage UNODC to continue to look for options to implement the Committee's recommendation on operationalizing an integrated knowledge management strategy through further efforts undertaken within existing resources.

13. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the efforts of UNODC to implement its recommendations and recommended that the General Assembly should encourage the Office to continue to focus on its key strengths and unique contributions, in particular providing technical assistance and carrying out research and analysis on drug and crime issues.

14. The Committee expressed its confidence that continued emphasis on implementing its recommendations regarding reform at the headquarters of UNODC would not disrupt or adversely affect the quality of programmes undertaken by the Office in the field.